Serial No.: 09/845,080

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of using polymer microparticles to protect pharmaceutical effectiveness of a pharmaceutically active agent comprising:

combining in a physiologically acceptable liquid medium (a) a pharmaceutically active agent with (b) previously formed polymer microparticles to form a pharmaceutically acceptable suspension; and

introducing said pharmaceutically acceptable suspension into an endoluminal drug delivery catheter for delivery, either with or without said polymer microparticles, of said pharmaceutically acceptable suspension to a patient, wherein introduction of said pharmaceutically acceptable suspension into said endoluminal drug delivery catheter results in contact of ~~contacting~~ said pharmaceutically acceptable suspension with an incompatible component of said endoluminal drug delivery catheter that is incompatible with said pharmaceutically active agent, wherein said incompatible component comprises a metal or a polymer, and wherein said polymer microparticles protect the pharmaceutical effectiveness of said pharmaceutically active agent upon said contact of said pharmaceutically acceptable suspension with said incompatible component. ~~is a component of an endoluminal drug delivery catheter.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible component comprises a metal.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said metal is selected from stainless steel and nickel-titanium superalloy.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said incompatible component comprises a polymer.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein said polymer is selected from polyether ether ketone, polyimide, epoxy, nylon, acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene polymers and polycarbonate.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer microparticles are latex beads.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer microparticles are polystyrene microparticles.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer microparticles range from 0.01 to 100 microns in largest dimension.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer microparticles range from 0.1 to 10 microns in largest dimension.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer microparticles are provided in an amount of 0.1 to 1 wt% in said suspension.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically active agent comprises a polynucleotide.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the pharmaceutically active agent is a cell, a plasmid or a viral vector.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pharmaceutically active agent is a viral vector selected from an adenoviral vector and an adeno-associated viral vector.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said microparticles are polystyrene microparticles and wherein said pharmaceutically active agent is selected from a cell, a plasmid and a viral vector.

18 to 36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer microparticles are provided in an amount of 0.01 to 10 wt% in said suspension.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein said endoluminal drug delivery catheter is a needle injection catheter.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said needle injection catheter is adapted for endocardial, epicardial, or pericardial administration.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said endoluminal drug delivery catheter is adapted for parenteral injection.